SI-643

Statement of

Richard C. Breunich, 931 Red Road,
Teaneck, N. J., made on January 30,
1964, to Special Investigator J. Edward
Burns, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division

My name is Richard C. Breunich. I am 21 years old, and live with my father, Charles, at 931 Red Road, Teaneck, N. J. I am a senior at Fairleigh-Dickinson University, Teaneck Campus, and have tentative plans for a Navy career as a commissioned officer.

I have never heard of either the "Minute-Men" or the "American Automatic Weapons Association" until tonight, except as mentioned in JOURNAL AMERICAN, when Inv. Burns asked me about these groups. I am now a member of the National Rifle Association until about February 1964 when my membership expires. I do not intend to renew, and since this mess about guns I've been in, I never want to touch another gun with a ten-foot pole.

Back in December 1962, the day after Christmas, I got a ride to the Cherry Ridge Rifle Range, Vernon Township, Sussex Township, with a fellow I knew from the Food Fair Store in Teaneck, where I work part time. This fellow's name was Walter, but I do not know his last name. We went in his car and as best as I can remember, it was about a 1951 or 1952 model, and it seemed like a big old car, like a Buick or an Olds. The other fellow was known to me only as Allen. I remember that Allen had a 35 caliber Marlin rifle he wanted sighted in. It was on this occasion that I had fired several shots from my 20 mm Lahte anti-tank rifle into a wooden, garage-like building, which housed the bullet riddled remains of a tractor. Neither Allen nor Walter fired the cannon.

On October 5, 1963, Robert Young and his brother, Warren, better known to me as Bruce, and I went up to the Cherry Ridge range with an assortment of rifles, two pistols and the 20 m.m. Lahte cannon. We arrived around dusk and started to prepare to camp for the night so we could start shooting first thing Sunday morning because Robert had to get back to his Coast Guard Station either Sunday evening or early Monday, and both he and I wanted to get back early because his mother and my mother were both sick and we wanted to spend some of Sunday at our homes.

After we got our camp set up for the night and had started our fire to cook our meal, it was taking longer than we had thought, so we decided to do some shooting while the dinner cooked. Since I was to

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take part in a historical pageant at White Plains, N. Y., on October 12, 1963, as a "noisemaker" to simulate British gunfire, I was experimenting with a fireworks display piece which might shoot a number of firecrackers into the air to simulate a volley of gunfire. I wanted to see if this would work. Robert, who is known as Duffy, was cooking the dinner and Bruce and I did some firing. It was then that a pair of Fish and Game Wardens came along and stopped us. They searched us and our camp and took our two pistols and the Lehte 20 m.m. cannon. They called the State Police and made us sit by the fire for a couple of hours until the State Police arrived. The State Police took custody of the cannon and the two pistols, and later sent us home.

On the next day, I noticed we had not left the 20 m.m. ammunition at the State Police Barracks, so all three of us - Duffy, Bruce and me, drove back up there and left the ammo at the Barracks. We left a steel box with the State Police on Saturday, but there were no 20 m.m. shells there, so that was why we took it to them on Sunday. A week or so later I received a phone call from the State Police asking me to bring up all my weapons so they could test the guns. My father drove me up to Newfoundland State Police Barracks and I took all my weapons and Bruce's too, and turned them over to State Police custody. They still have these weapons.

In December, I believe it was Wednesday, the 11th, I was taken to the Teaneck Police Station and charged on two separate counts: one for malicious mischief and the other for possession of a bomb. I was fined $10.00 and $5.00 costs on the malicious mischief charge; and I believe the bomb charge is waiting for Grand Jury action.

I have made this statement of my own free will, without any threats or promises of any kind; and this statement, consisting of five pages, is true and correct. I have been given an opportunity to make changes and corrections and have signed each page as evidence of this.

Richard C. Breunich (signed)

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 30th day
of January, 1964.

J. Edward Burns /s/
Spl. Inv., A&TTD

Witness: Charles D. Breunich /s/

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